



Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District

2450 S. 4th Ave., #402 - Yuma, Arizona 85364 - Phone (602) 726-5562

Re: Comments on Alternatives - RMP/EA (5-Mile Zone)

Enclosed is a 4 page summary of Elements which USBR considered and Actions from the 4 Alternatives presented for public review. A substantial number of Actions listed in the Alternatives presented are either being done now, emotionally motivated, financially prohibitive or otherwise "business as usual".

We believe the Actions, as we have listed them, are applicable to accommodate wise use and management by agency or public interests within the 5-Mile Zone.

The proposed Land Use Map (copy enclosed) from our 1976 Long Range Program shows that agriculture and recreation were considered most appropriate for the greater portion of the area.

Possible listing as threatened or endangered flat-tailed horned lizards, or any species of fauna or flora, does not change our perspective. Flexibility of use is afforded in the Actions we listed. Care of cultural and environmental factors can be realistically accommodated.

We submit that T&/orE designation of a species or habitat is possible. Management restrictions could be mandated that would limit agency or public use and/or access. Hopefully, these limitations would be minimal.

Guidance shown in the "Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy" planning document of May 1997 should be used judiciously and limited only to address a particular goal in specific geographic area(s) of the "Strategy" if extreme need is evident and goals or benefits are attainable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We intend the above to be contributed as helpful; any perceived criticism should be considered constructively toward agency and public interests.

If there are any questions or we may be of further assistance, we would welcome your response.

Mark Kuechel, Chairman
Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District

Encl.

CONSERVATION - DEVELOPMENT - SELF-GOVERNMENT

Bureau of Reclamation Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (RMP/EA)---for the Regulatory and Protective and Pumping Zone (aka 5-Mile Zone)

COMMENTS BY: Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District – June 13, 2002
Preliminary Alternatives presented June 4, 2002 – Elements and Actions:

Element-	Action-
Arizona Department of Game and Fish:	Continue to work cooperatively with ADG&F.
Border Patrol:	Coordinate activities with the Border Patrol. Honor a request from the Border Patrol to increase The security zone from 90' to 150'.
Bureau of Land Management:	Coordinate with BLM.
Campsites and facilities:	Provide no facilities. Allow camping.
Carrying capacity limitations:	Establish no social, physical, facility, or environmental carrying capacities.
Cattle crossing:	Cooperate with the Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA) and other involved entities to transfer the oversight of the cattle crossing lease agreement to GYPA.
Compatibility with adjacent land use:	Cooperate with adjacent land owners to ensure that land uses are compatible.
Comprehensive land use strategy:	Continue land use strategies. Use GIS mapping as a planning tool to help managers make land use suitability and capability decisions. Consider soil conditions and other environmental conditions or limitations when developing future facilities. Do not allow private exclusive use of Reclamation lands. Allow limited day use recreation facilities to be dispersed throughout the study area when compatible with natural resource protection and conservation. Ensure management of lands within the 5-Mile Zone follows Reclamation's existing and future Policies, Directives and Standards and Federal laws, rules, Regulations and Executive orders. Attempt to implement necessary management actions identified in the RMP within the 10-year planning life of the plan, depending on funding, personnel limitations, and cooperation of other involved entities.